

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A closure for a beverage container includes: (a) a base adapted to be attached to an opening of a liquid container, where the base includes a conduit extending therethrough that is adapted to be in fluid communication with liquid contents of the liquid container, where the base further includes a substantially tubular spout guide defining at least a portion of the conduit, and where the base further includes an annular deck extending radially inwardly from an inner circumferential surface of the base defining a central orifice in fluid communication with the conduit; and (b) a substantially annular spout mounted to the tubular spout guide for reciprocation at least between an open position and a closed position, the spout including (1) an annular wall and (2) a plug positioned radially within the annular wall; where the plug has annular, outer circumferential seal surface that is received within, and plugs the central orifice of the deck when the spout is in the closed position and that is removed from the central orifice deck when the spout is in the open position; where at least a substantial portion of the outer circumferential seal surface of the plug is axially recessed or flush with respect to the annular wall of the spout; and where the outer circumferential seal surface has either a smooth cylindrical shape with a substantially constant diameter or a smooth frustoconical shape having a diameter that widens with the distance from the leading end.